

VI. 18 Oct 85

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VENEZUELA TO STUDY COLOMBIAN PROTEST ON SEIZURE

PA161345 Paris AFP in Spanish 0010 GMT 16 Oct 85

[Text] Caracas, 15 Oct (AFP) -- The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry will study the protest note sent by the Foreign Ministry in Bogota concerning the fishing boats seized in Venezuela, which Colombia asserts were navigating in its waters, Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi stated today. Consalvi underscored that the geographic coordinates quoted in the Colombian protest note do not coincide with the information from the Venezuelan naval forces. He said that this office "will closely analyze the Colombian note and he will meet with naval forces representatives to ascertain the true location of those fishing boats."

Two of the ships are Japanese, the Caribbean Star No 8 and the Caribbean Star No 23, and the other one was registered in Panama, the Makandra No 15; they were leased by Colombian organizations, Consalvi explained.

Consalvi said to the journalists: "As you well know, this is the zone where the naval forces have had to maintain a zealous vigilance, basically due to drug trafficking, which has become a problem in that area as has been recognized by the Venezuelan and Colombian governments." In addition, he considered unimportant the fact that the matter had been publicized in Colombia, pointing out that this could not be avoided given the protests of the fishermen and the fishing companies. "This is no longer a confidential matter, and that is logical; however, anything that happened in our other maritime areas has not been confidential either," he added.

When asked about an editorial in the Bogota Newspaper EL TIEMPO, in which former Colombian Foreign Minister Arturo Vasquez Carrizosa asserts that Colombia should be present in the zone -- a matter which was considered an "intemperance" -- Consalvi replied:

"We cannot reply to an intemperance with another intemperance; therefore, I handle myself in that terrain with the equilibrium that my duties make necessary."

BRIEFS

BAZUKO HAUL -- The Judicial Technical Police seized 700 grams of bazuko [tobacco laced with cocaine] from a gang of drug traffickers on 2 October. Four of the leading members of the gang were arrested. They were identified as Dominicans Eltor Rafael Licil, 32, and Angelina Medina Ortiz, 26; and Colombians Alvaro Camacho Corredor, 29, and Juan Jose Alvarez Jurado, 28. The traffickers also had 700 counterfeit \$100 bills which had been forged in Colombia and were to be passed in Caracas. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 4 Oct 85 p 4-30 PA]

MARIJUANA SEIZED -- Caracas, 9 Oct (AFP) -- The Judicial Technical Police have seized 800 kg of marijuana near Cupira, 150 km east of Caracas. The marijuana was wrapped in tinfoil and was being transported from Colombia to Caracas in a vehicle camouflaged as a fuel tank truck by traffickers Benigno Escalante, Jose Manuel Valles, and Ana Elena Fernandez. Valles was captured earlier this year with 3,000 liters of ether (which is used to manufacture cocaine) in central Venezuela, but was freed by a criminal court a short time later. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0214 GMT 10 Oct 85 PA]